

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR.

ST. LOUIS, MO., SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1902.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

DESTRUCTION NOW THREATENS ST. VINCENT ISLAND;
450 PERSONS RESCUED AT ST. PIERRE, MARTINIQUE.**Eruptions Continue in Islands, and Fearful Drought Withers All Living Things—Horror of Thirst and Famine Added to Those of Fire and Earthquakes.**

A special cable to the New York Herald and St. Louis Republic from St. Lucia, the island next south of Martinique, where the chief disaster of May 8 occurred, says that the Soufriere of St. Vincent is also in eruption and another disaster is feared.

St. Lucia is midway between the two volcanic centers of Martinique and St. Vincent.

A wall of fire on Martinique makes relief work for the present impossible. The Senate in Washington has passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for relief work in Martinique. The French Cabinet, in Paris, has authorized the Minister of Finance to expend all moneys necessary for the sufferers, and an officer has sailed from Brest with \$100,000.

A cable from Senator Knight, in Fort de France, Martinique, says Morne Rouge, a suburb of St. Pierre, was spared.

Four American ships are believed to have been among the vessels destroyed in St. Pierre's harbor.

Cable communication with Fort de France, ten miles from St. Pierre, was opened yesterday.

The French Cable Company's repair steamer Pouyner Quentier landed at Fort de France about 450 persons she had picked up in the harbor of St. Pierre.

Great Britain will send a warship at once to Martinique.

The United States cruiser Cincinnati has been ordered to the island and the training ship Dixie will go to Fort de France.

SHADOW OF DEATH HOVERS
OVER ALL LESSER ANTILLES.**Catastrophe Which Destroyed St. Pierre, Martinique, Is Followed by Showers of Hot Ashes Which Withers Men, Beasts and Vegetation, While Volcanic Disturbances Dry Up All Sources of Water Supply in Neighboring Islands.**

TUN-REDS PERISH FROM HEAT AND THIRST IN ST. VINCENT.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

St. Lucia, British West Indies, May 10.—(Copyright, 1902.)—It is a certainty that the city of St. Pierre, Martinique, has been obliterated, with its 35,000 population, and other towns within the shadow of Mount Pelee in all probability have been razed by flaming gas and cinders and by red-hot rocks and incandescent sand.

All present attempts at rescue or investigation are practically useless.

Along four miles of the western coast of the island there is a bed of fire, and at sea the sky is black with smoke and ashes.

Passing vessels report that the blanket of fire which fell upon St. Pierre appears to be consuming all the country for miles around.

It seems beyond doubt that the radius of destruction has involved at least 40,000 victims. They had no apparent chance to escape when the top of the mountain exploded.

The belief here is that some residents of St. Pierre must have taken warning from the ominous actions of Mount Pelee for several days previous to the catastrophe and have sought refuge in the country. Even then they may have been caught in the disaster which is so widespread.

The island of St. Vincent is threatened with similar disaster, and St. Lucia lies midway between these two volcanic centers. The volcano called the Soufriere (Sulphur Pit), on the northwestern part of St. Vincent, is in sympathetic eruption.

FURNACE-LIKE HEAT AND AWFUL DROUGHT AFFLICT ST. VINCENT

One-third of the north side of the island, or for a distance of six miles, there is a burning, blazing strip.

Incandescent sand and red-hot cinders are filling the fertile and well-populated valleys. All the springs have dried up and the lakes are steaming pits. The residents are dying of thirst and many have been overtaken in their flight by the overflow from the Soufriere.

In this 10-mile stretch of the Windward Islands the volcanic ashes from St. Vincent and from Martinique are falling in vast clouds, turning daylight into partial darkness.

Decks and rigging of vessels are covered with the dust and a feeling of terror prevails on the sea.

Kingstown, the capital of St. Vincent, on the southwestern end, with a population of 5,000, is still safe, but the people are alarmed and fear flaming masses from the Soufriere may overwhelm them at any moment.

There are ever-active volcanoes on St. Lucia and Dominica, but these have shown no sympathy with the upheavals of the neighboring island.

The latest reports from the vicinity of St. Pierre come via the Royal Mail steamship which called off that port at 10 o'clock last night. Attempts were made to signal the possibly living by throwing up rockets and blowing the whistle. There was no response.

A boat was sent toward shore, but a landing was found impossible because of fire along the coast for miles. All the shipping in port had been destroyed.

A later attempt to enter the city by officers of the French Colonial Government was barred by flames. Among the ruins of the streets lay hundreds of bodies.

DYING MEN SAIL FUGITIVE SHIP INTO HARBOR OF ST. LUCIA.

The British steamship Roddam, of all the shipping in the harbor, alone escaped and came into this port with a cargo of dead and dying. She was dismantled and almost wrecked. She was burned from stem to stern.

Ten of her crew had been scorched to death while she fought her way to sea. The captain, terribly burned and blinded, steered his ship through a storm of fire. He was the only man on board able to help himself above decks.

The steamer's agent was alongside in the harbor of St. Pierre when the city was overwhelmed, and crawled on board in what he says was a "cloud of fire." He was severely burned, but probably will live.

Two men of the crew have died since they were taken ashore to the hospital in St. Lucia, and the captain is not expected to survive.

It is probable that the agent from St. Pierre will be the only survivor of those who reached here. The Roddam was navigated to safety literally by a handful of dying men.

Late advices say that some of the inhabitants of St. Pierre, taking warning, fled to Fort de France, the capital of Martinique, and a few came to St. Lucia. But almost all of these refugees were women and children, sent away by their husbands and fathers. These are now left destitute and desolate.

Thousands of persons are flocking into Fort de France and famine faces these survivors. Animals are dying all over the island and all fodder and growing crops are withered.

BODIES OF MEN AND ANIMALS WITHERED BY RED-HOT ASHES.

Bodies of men and cows and horses are found, dried by the rain of red-hot ashes, miles from the scene of active destruction. Other islands are sending assistance, but they are without guidance as to the nature and extent of the help required.

Foodstuffs of all kinds are urgently needed for the relief of Martinique, and St. Vincent as well, in addition to the suffering refugees already in St. Lucia.

It is impossible to obtain any coherent account of the catastrophe from the survivors in this port. Almost without exception they are tortured with injuries and have only a half-remembered recollection of a night for life.

It is not even possible to ascertain whether the configuration of the country has been greatly changed, although it is said that the whole top of the mountain has been blown off, for volcanic masses were scattered for a distance of at least a dozen miles.



ONE OF THE PEAKS, ISLAND OF ST. LUCIA.
Two oddly shaped peaks rise from the southern end of the island. They are supposed to be the cores of former volcanoes whose craters have been disintegrated.

DAYS OF TERROR PRECEDED THE ERUPTION.

Ashes Had Covered St. Pierre to the Depth of an Inch, and a Stream of Lava Had Entombed a Sugar Factory and Its Employees—City Lighted by Glare From Mount Pelee's Glowing Crater—Thunderous Detonations Heard Hundreds of Miles.

Castries, St. Lucia, British West Indies, May 10.—Pelee, a volcanic mountain, some ten miles north of St. Pierre, the commercial cable of Martinique, is the mountain which made a faint show of eruption fifty years ago.

On May 3 last it began to throw out dense clouds of smoke. At midnight the same day flames, accompanied with rumbling noises, lighted the city over an immense area, causing widespread terror.

May 4 hot ashes covered the whole city quarter of St. Pierre an inch thick and made Pelee invisible.

At noon, May 5, a stream of burning lava rushed 4,000 feet down the mountain side, following the dry bed of a torrent and reaching the sea, five miles from the mountain, in three minutes.

In its rush the fiery flood swept from its path plantations, buildings, factories, cattle and human beings over a breadth of about half a mile.

Sugar Factory Entombed in Lava.
At the rear of the mouth of the Riviere Blanche stood the large Guerin sugar factory, one of the finest in the island. It is now completely entombed in lava. The tall chimneys alone are visible. One hundred and fifty persons are estimated to have perished there, including the owner's son.

As the lava rushed into the sea the latter receded 300 feet all along the west coast, returning with greater strength, a big wave covered the whole sea front of St. Pierre, but doing little damage shore or afloat.

Terrific detonations, heard hundreds of miles northward, followed at short, irregular intervals and continued at night. In the intense darkness the electric light flashed from the mountain. The terror-stricken inhabitants rushed for the hills in the night, cowering, screaming, shouting and wallowing in terror.

The Plesson family escaped to St. Lucia in a small steamer. Thirty-five persons, mostly women and children, arrived here in the forenoon of May 6. The men remained in Martinique.

The same afternoon later telegraphic communication was interrupted with both the islands of Martinique and St. Vincent.

Crippled Ship Crawls to Castries.
In the afternoon of last Thursday the British steamer Roddam, which had left St. Lucia at midnight on the 7th for Martinique, crawled slowly into the Castries Harbor, unrecognized, gray with ash, her rigging dismantled and sheets and awnings hanging about, torn and charred.

Captain Wharton reported that, having just cast anchor off St. Pierre at 8 a. m., in

fine weather, succeeding an awful thunderstorm during the night, he was talking to the ship's agent, Joseph Plesson, who was in a boat alongside, when he saw a tremendous cloud of smoke and glowing cinders rushing with terrific rapidity over the town and port, completely, in an instant, enveloping the former in a sheet of flame and raining fire on board.

The agent had just time to climb on board, when his boat disappeared. Several of the crew of the Roddam were quickly scorched to death.

By superhuman efforts, having steam up, the cable was slipped and the steamer backed away from the shore, and nine hours later managed to reach Castries.

Ten of the Roddam's men were lying dead, contorted and burned out of human semblance, among the black cinders which covered the ship's deck to a depth of six inches. Two more of the crew have since died. Two of the survivors of the crew were loud in their praise of the heroic conduct of the captain steering the vessel away from destruction with his own hands, which were badly burned by the rain of fire which kept falling on the ship for miles after she got under way.

Dying Man Waves a Farewell.
All the shipping in the port has been utterly destroyed. The West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company's repairing vessel going first, then the Quebec liner Roddam. Captain Muggah of the latter waved his hand in farewell to the Roddam as his vessel sank with a terrific explosion.

In the afternoon a French coasting steamer arrived here from Port de France, seeking assistance, as all the country was burnt up, the stock was dying; all the plantations were charred; the country people were flocking into the towns and a famine was feared. The steamer was loaded with food of all sorts and was sent back to Martinique at 7 p. m. The captain of this vessel reported that some thirty persons left St. Pierre by the 8 o'clock boat Thursday morning for Fort de France, and, consequently, were saved.

All attempts to get to St. Pierre are barred by fire. The closest observation possible showed houses still blazing and streets strewn with food of all sorts and dead and dying people. It is certain that the whole town and neighboring country for miles is utterly destroyed, and it is feared here that few, if any, of the inhabitants escaped.

The volcano of the island of St. Vincent has burst out in sympathetic eruption. A steamer which returned from there last night reports that the northern third of the island was in flames and cut off from assistance by a continuous stream of burning lava, ashes falling in heavy showers as far as ten miles away.

SHIP TAKES 450 REFUGEES TO SAFETY.**Survivors So Dazed From Their Sufferings That They Can Give No Connected Account of What Has Happened—Authorities at Fort de France Making Every Effort to Care for the Unfortunate—Fears of a Famine Are Felt.**

Fort de France, Martinique, May 10, 1:45 p. m.—The earthquakes have ceased, but the volcanic eruptions continue.

The cable steamer Coucyer Quentier of the French Telegraphic Cable Company's line, has arrived here, with 450 refugees from the stricken city of St. Pierre. The commander reports that St. Pierre is entirely destroyed.

General Manager Jellard of the French Cable Company at St. Pierre was burned to death.

The survivors are suffering from terrible burns and so dazed by the awful experiences they have undergone that they can give no connected account of what happened. Many of them say yet fail to realize that they have at last arrived at a place of safety. Their condition is pitiable.

The French Cable Company has sent two cable ships to St. Pierre, in the hope of being able to render more aid.

Hopes Raised at Fort-de-France.
Hopes are raised here that more of the population of St. Pierre than indicated in the earlier dispatches have been saved. It is believed that a number of people were rescued from the stricken town by steamers running to Fort-de-France.

The work of clearing away the debris in the city of St. Pierre will be commenced as soon as it is possible to enter the ruins. Until some semblance of order has been

DISASTER AT ST. PIERRE

PREDICTED TEN YEARS AGO.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, May 10.—The destruction of St. Pierre was predicted by

Maturin M. Ballou in his book, "Equatorial America," published in

1892. An extract reads:

"Once or twice since 1851 ominous mutterings have been heard from

Mount Pelee, which, it is confidently

predicted, will one day deluge St.

Pierre with ashes and lava, repeating the story of Pompeii."

strong downpour of dust, which continued until night.

"Barbados is covered several inches deep with dust this morning. Have telegraphed Sir Robert B. Llewellyn, Governor of the Windward Islands, offering him all assistance."

Another cablegram, received from Administrator Bell of the Island of Dominica, is as follows:

"A terrible eruption has occurred at a volcano at Martinique. Great distress prevails there. I am sending provisions immediately. All safe at Dominica."

News From British Steamer Roddam.

Thirty deaths are reported to have occurred at the island of St. Vincent, according to a telegram received at the Colonial Office this morning from Governor Llewellyn, forwarded from St. Lucia yesterday evening. The Governor adds:

"Information incomplete. Eruption continues. I am endeavoring to get back to St. Vincent."

Mr. Young & Co. of this city, owners of the British steamer Roddam, which escaped from St. Pierre to St. Lucia, received this morning the first information from their agents at St. Lucia, as follows:

"Terrible volcanic eruption at Martinique. Roddam returned. One anchor and chain slipped. Tarballs and running gear burned. Machinery intact. Captain in hospital. Two mates, chief engineer and eight of crew dead. Ten in hospital. Second and third engineers aboard. Campbell, supercargo, dead. Communication between here and Barbados interrupted."

ESTIMATES DEATHS AT 30,000.

London, May 10.—Lloyd's agent at St. Lucia, British West Indies, cables that later news fully confirms the disaster at St. Pierre. He says he cannot ascertain the names of the vessels which have been lost, but they include one Italian bark and two steamers, one probably being the Grappler, the cable ship belonging to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The total loss of life is estimated at 30,000. The agent at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, cables that St. Pierre has been totally destroyed by fire, and that all the inhabitants perished. All the vessels in the harbor were lost.

These include the Grappler. The steamer Roddam, belonging to the Quebec Steamship Company, took fire in port and became a total loss. All on board the Roddam perished.

FRANCE WILL AID THE SUFFERERS.

Paris, May 10.—At a meeting of the French Cabinet this morning, the Minister of Finance, M. Caillaux, was authorized to expend all the money necessary to succor the sufferers by the Martinique disaster.

An official from the Colonial Office sailed from Brest for Martinique this morning with a half million francs (\$100,000) in cash.

The Cabinet further decided to order the half-masting of flags over all public buildings for three days, and the Minister of the Colonies, M. Delmas, was instructed to telegraph to the Governor of Martinique the condolences of France.

M. Decrais, Minister of the Interior, at the Cabinet meeting that Senator Knight, President of the Legislature of Martinique, who was believed to have lost his life at St. Pierre, had escaped.

STILL NO CABLE TO MARTINIQUE.

London, May 10.—Cable communication between London and the island of Martinique is cut off. The Direct West Indies Cable Company received at 1:30 this afternoon a cable dispatch from St. Lucia, dated today, saying: "Ship just leaving for St. Pierre, presumably with the object of ascertaining what has happened on that island. Possibly took Governor Llewellyn."

Communication is still obtainable with the island of Guadeloupe, French West Indies, but the news is congested, owing to the confusion prevailing in the system and the numerous official messages filed.

The receipt of the first direct cable news from Martinique depends on how long the French company will take in repairing the cable to Fort de France, capital of the island, on which they are now working.

The British Admiralty is communicating with the Commander-in-Chief of the British Naval Station, and a war vessel will be directed to go to Martinique.

Wrecked Cities Perished.

It is apparent from the cable dispatches received that the eruption of the volcano on Mount Pelee will not do much damage to the summer crop, which is chiefly confined to the southern part of the island, and the gathering of which is now two-thirds over. However, the wiping out of the moneyed population of the island, and the fact that St. Pierre is bound to produce the most serious commercial effect. Not one of the business houses in London has heard a word of its agents in Martinique.

A partner of the principal English firm dealing with Martinique said today:

"I suppose all our agents are dead. Not much business is transacted between England and Martinique. Almost everything thence is shipped direct to Bordeaux, which suffers the most. I know Martinique well. The last time I was there, a few years ago, there were only two Englishmen and no American residents at St. Pierre, though that town did a good business with America in the way of footwear. A large proportion of the white population belongs to the old French families, who preferred St. Pierre to any other part of the island. We never for a moment dreamed that Mount Pelee would be dangerous. Fifty years ago some smoke and steam issued from its crevices, but no attention was paid to it."

AMERICA MAY GIVE \$100,000.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, May 10.—In the Senate today Mr. Fairbanks introduced a bill for the relief of the citizens of the French West Indies, and it was read and passed. It authorizes the President of the United States to cause to be purchased such provisions, clothes, medicines and other necessary articles as he shall deem advisable and tender the same on the part of the Government of the United States to that of France for the relief of citizens who have suffered by



Photographed last February by Henri C. Garneau of St. Louis.
STREET IN ST. PIERRE, WHICH WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN THE WEST INDIES.

ST. PIERRE AS SEEN RECENTLY
BY H. C. GARNEAU OF ST. LOUIS

Henri C. Garneau, a St. Louis chemist, who returned from a trip through the West Indian Islands recently, spent three days on the island of Martinique two months ago.

He says that these three days were among the most delightful of his experience, and that the island resembles what the Garden of Eden would be imagined to be.

The island of St. Vincent was the object of his trip, and he went there to examine the value of mines. On the return trip he stopped at Martinique, landing at St. Pierre. He traveled on the steamer Roddam, which is reported almost entirely destroyed by the eruption.

"The boat runs between New York and the West Indies, stopping at nearly all the islands," said he. "I knew Captain Freeman of the vessel well. When the boat gets down among the islands it takes aboard a large number of negro hands to handle the freight, and of those who perished aboard the majority probably were negroes. At Martinique, normally, not more than four or five passengers are on board."

"The landing at Martinique was made at St. Pierre. There are no wharves, but the vessels may go very close to the shore, and landings are made by lighter from a distance of about 150 yards. The town is built upon a steep incline at the edge of the ocean. Back of it is Mount Pelee, which is a volcano and was smoldering while I was there."

"I went all over the island on horseback. The foliage is the most verdant that I ever saw and the climate delightful. It makes one desire to remain there permanently, just resting and enjoying a permanent estate, as do most of the natives. I got very good photographs on the island, climbed to the summit of Mount Pelee and took a snapshot of the crater. I gave most of my pictures to an Englishman to develop, presenting him with \$5 as a bonus to do the work well. I have never seen my pictures, the money or the Englishman since."

"The architecture of the buildings in St. Pierre dates back to the Seventeenth Century. The town looks old and resembles the French quarter of New Orleans. Fresh water was continually running in the streets. Ships were thrown into it, and were carried to the ocean."

"There were a few families of cultivated people on the island, but these were all French. There are not more than ten Americans, and I met none of these. Everybody with whom I talked seemed in ignorance that there was such a place as St. Louis in the United States, and when I told them that I came from St. Louis I was asked if it was in Africa."

"The sugar crop is the life of the island. The architecture of its industries by the mother country it is represented in the French quarter of New Orleans. It was governed by a council made up of appointees by the French Government and of other members elected by the islanders."

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CORRESPONDENTS AND ARTISTS OFF FOR MARTINIQUE: The Republic is one of a group of newspapers that has just started a ship, bearing writers and photographers, for the port of St. Pierre. Other writers are already there, and will use all endeavor in sending complete accounts of the great disaster from the nearest cable station.